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Shigurui

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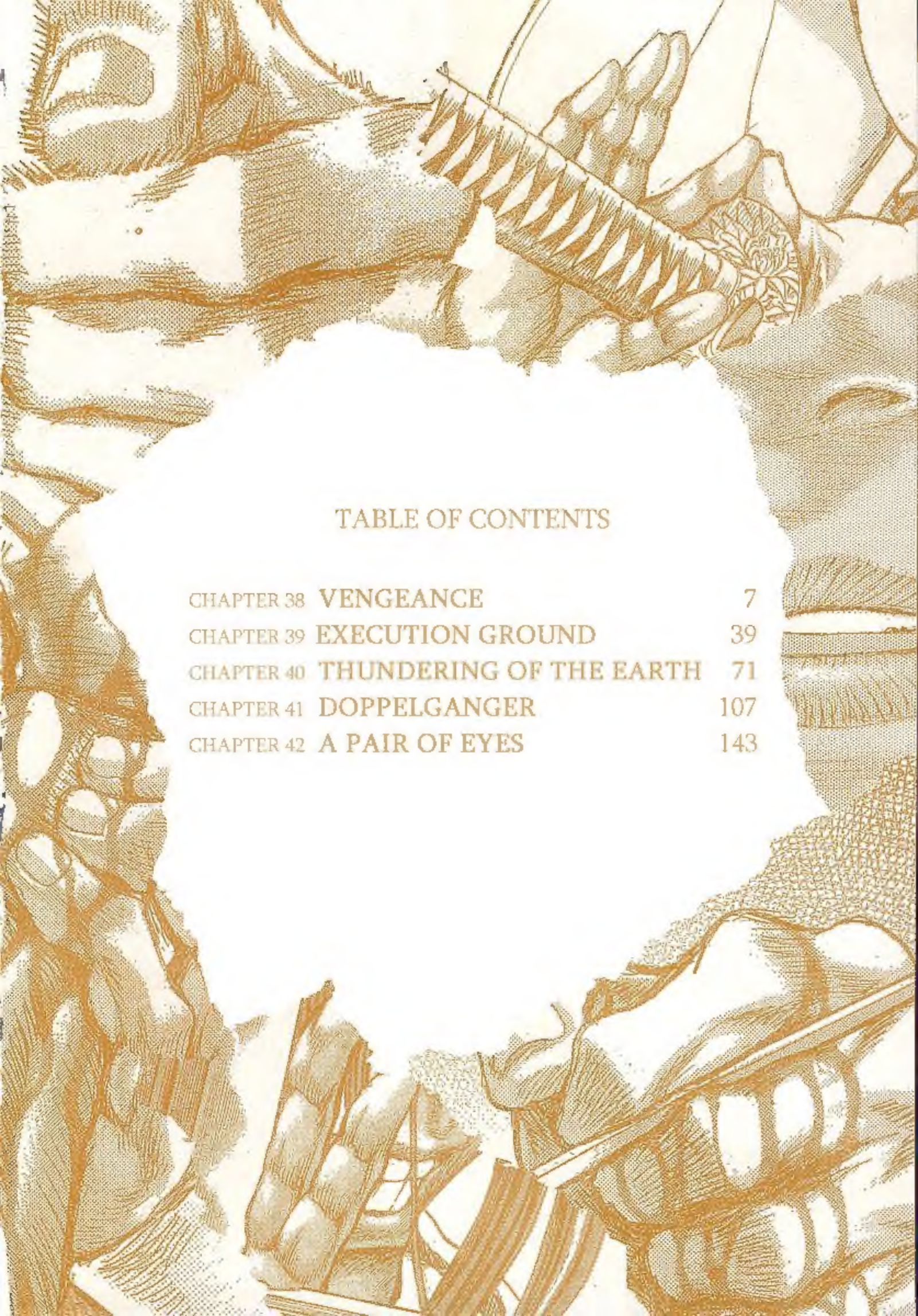

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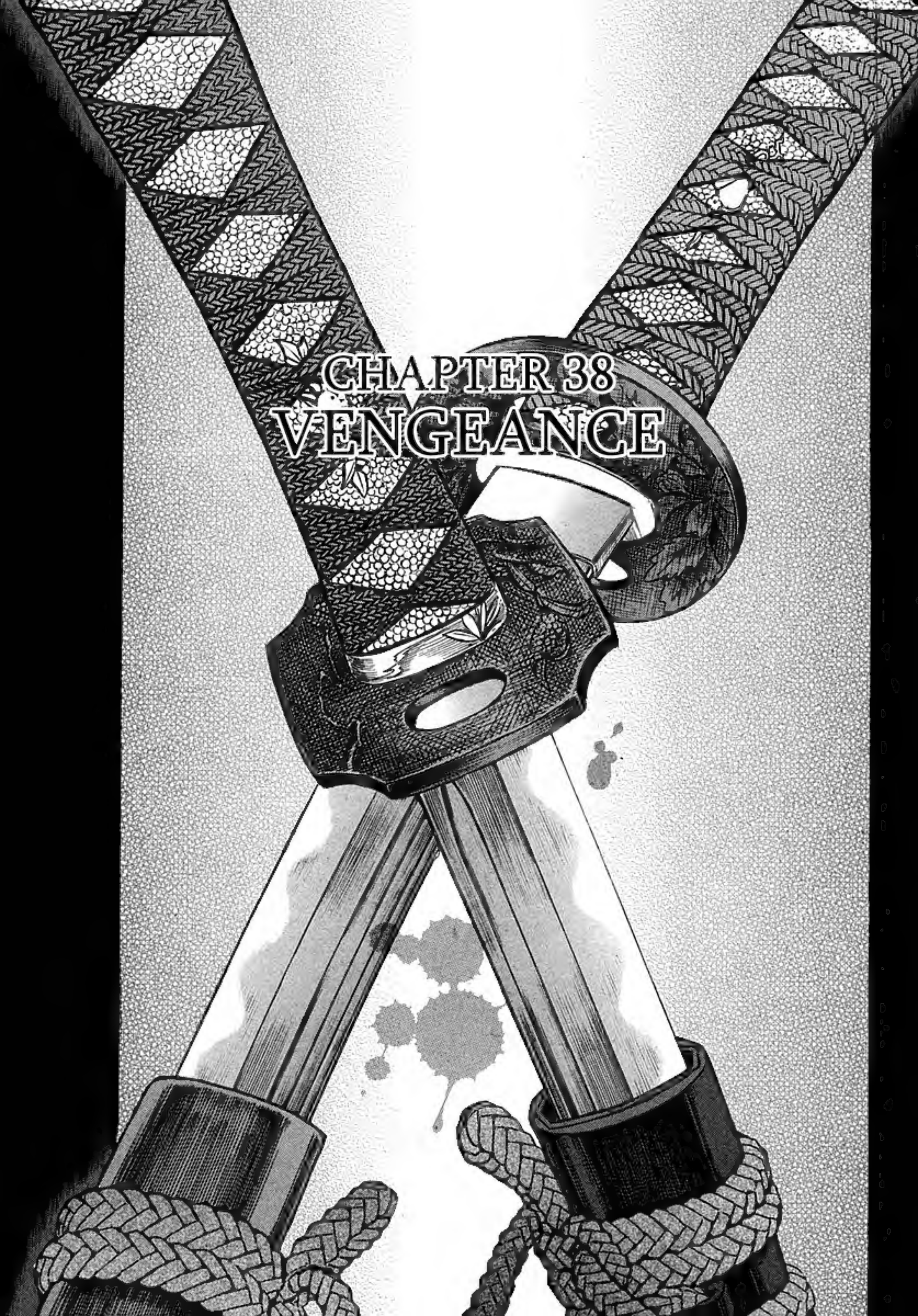
CHAPTER 38
VENGEANCE



YOUNG MASTER.

YOUNG MASTER.

MAY YOU BE THE VICTOR.

MAY YOU BE THE VICTOR.

THE DAY OF THE DUEL. THE STUDENTS OF KOGAN-RYUU, WHO HAD RE-TURNED TO THE DOUJOU,

STOOD IN A DOUBLE LINE, WISHING @ENNOSUKE VICTORY.

ONLY MIE REPLIED TO THEIR WORDS WITH A SILENT SMILE.

THE BAMBOO FENCE SURROUNDING THE DUELING GROUND STRETCHED OVER THREE HUNDRED FEET IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

HOLDING BACK THE PEOPLE WHO HAD COME TO WATCH THE BATTLE.

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE HAS ARRIVED.

AS WELL AS IWAMOTO MIE,

AND USHIMATA GONZAEMON.

DOES HE BEAR ANY CHAINS?

ONLY HIS SWORDS.

NO.

GROUNDS

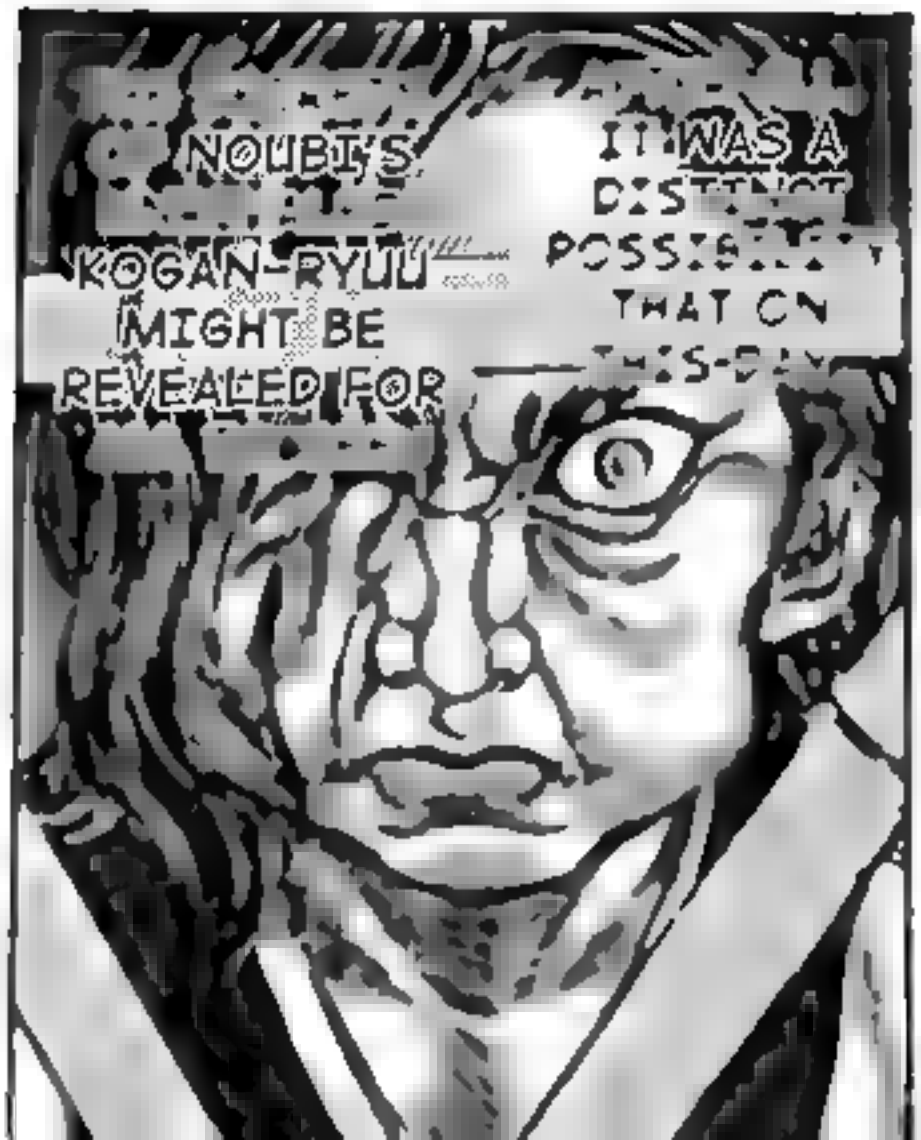
SETTING EYES UPON SEIGEN SITTING ON THE OTHER SIDE

MIE'S CHEEKS FLUSHED WITH COLOR

AND HER LIPS PARTED SLIGHTLY !

WAS TO STOP HER HANDS FROM SHAKING

HER FIRM GRASP ON HER SHORT DAGGER,


NOUBI'S
KOGAN-RYUU
MIGHT BE
REVEALED FOR
IT WAS A
POSSIB
THAT ON

AS WELL, HAD
GATHERED

WERE THE HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF KALE-GAWA

SITTING PROTECTED BY THE DISTRICT'S SAMURAI

KAROU HARA-MIISHI BIZEN-NOKAMI

KALEGAWA'S EMPEROR YANAS'KAWA TANOMO

SHIZUHATA KENGYOU

THE STRAPPING YOUNG MAN STANDING BEHIND THEM,

OH

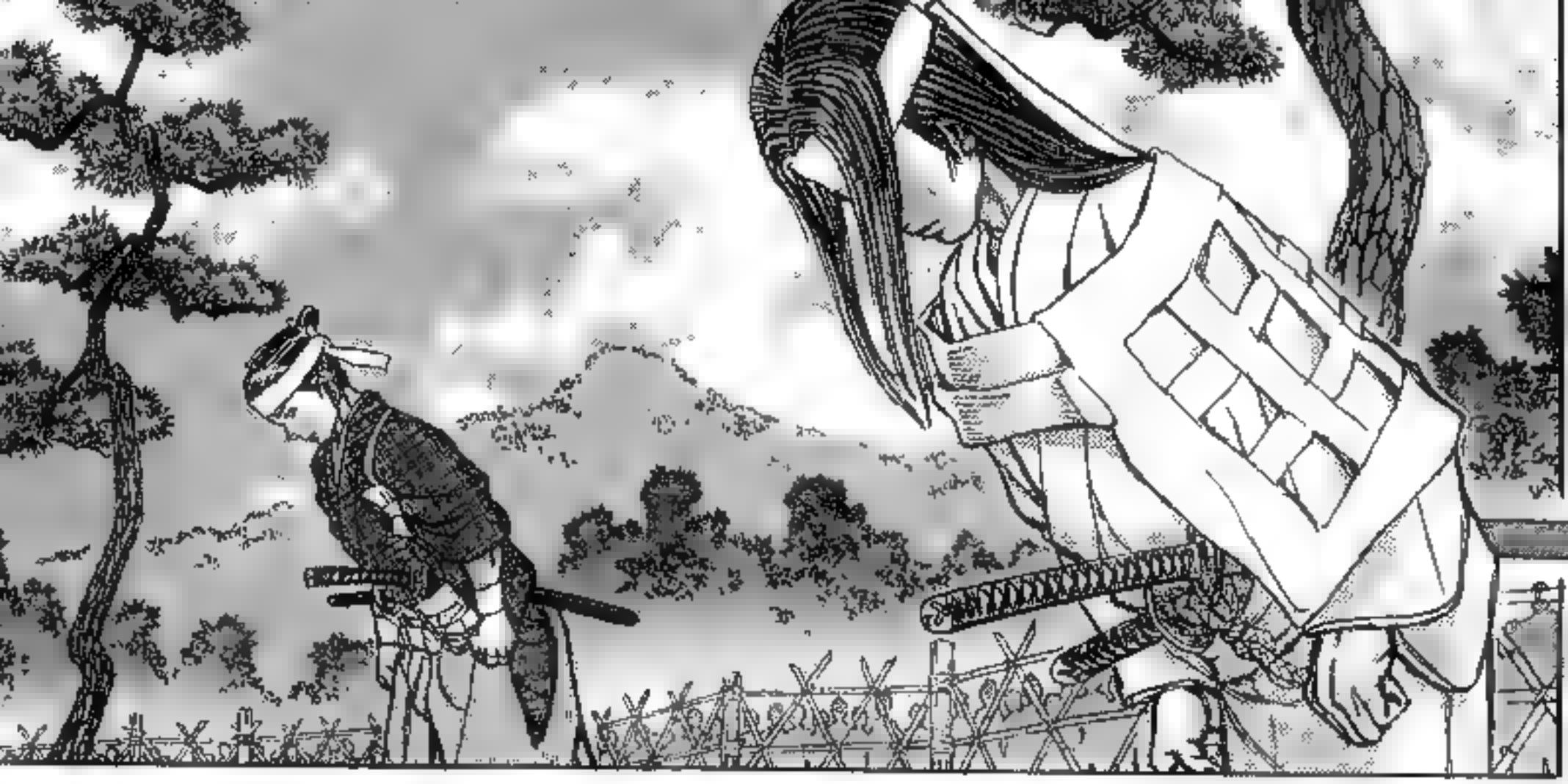
IMPUDENT WRETCH WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

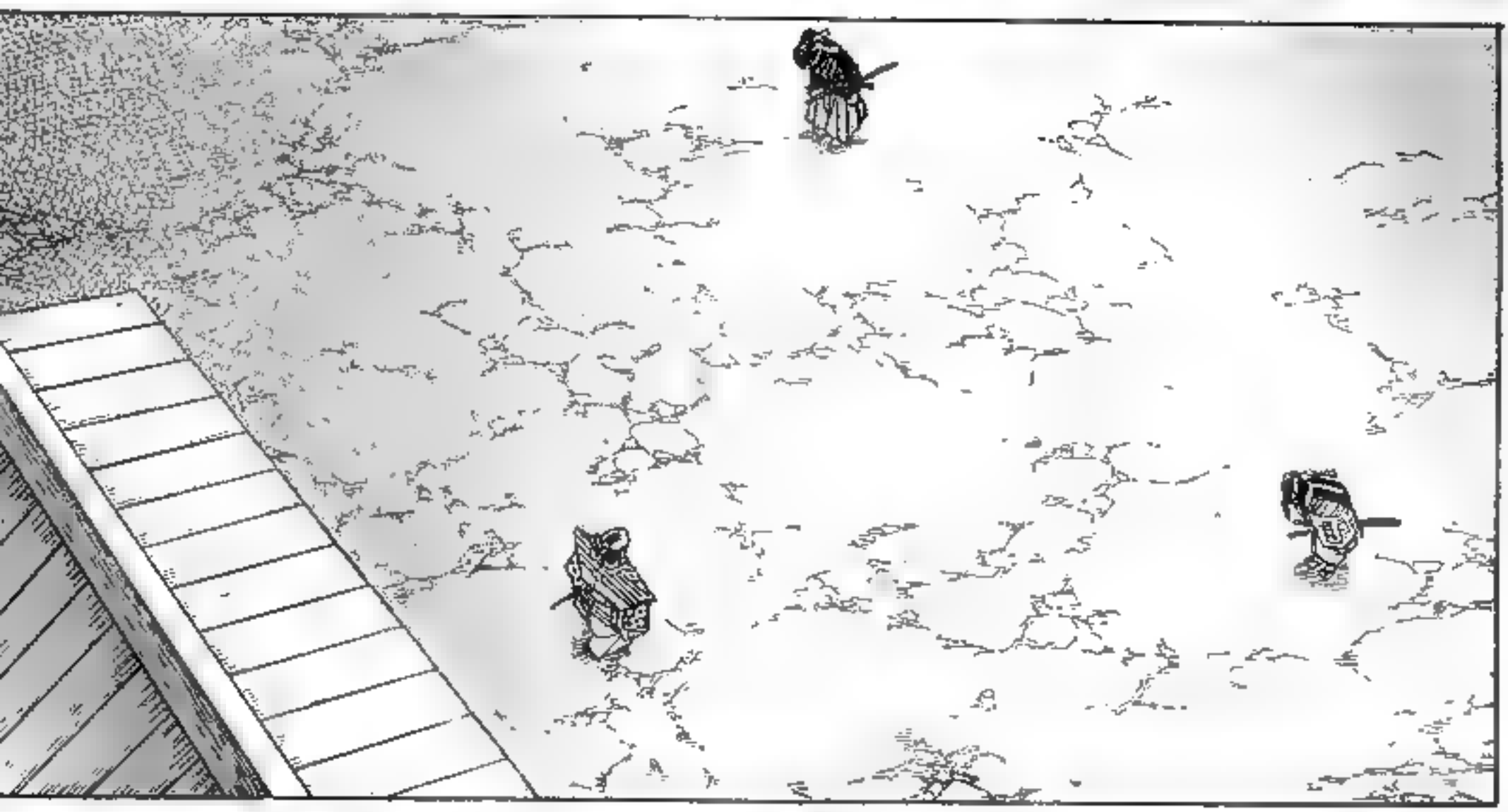
I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SUCH A FLOWER COULD BLOSSOM IN THE

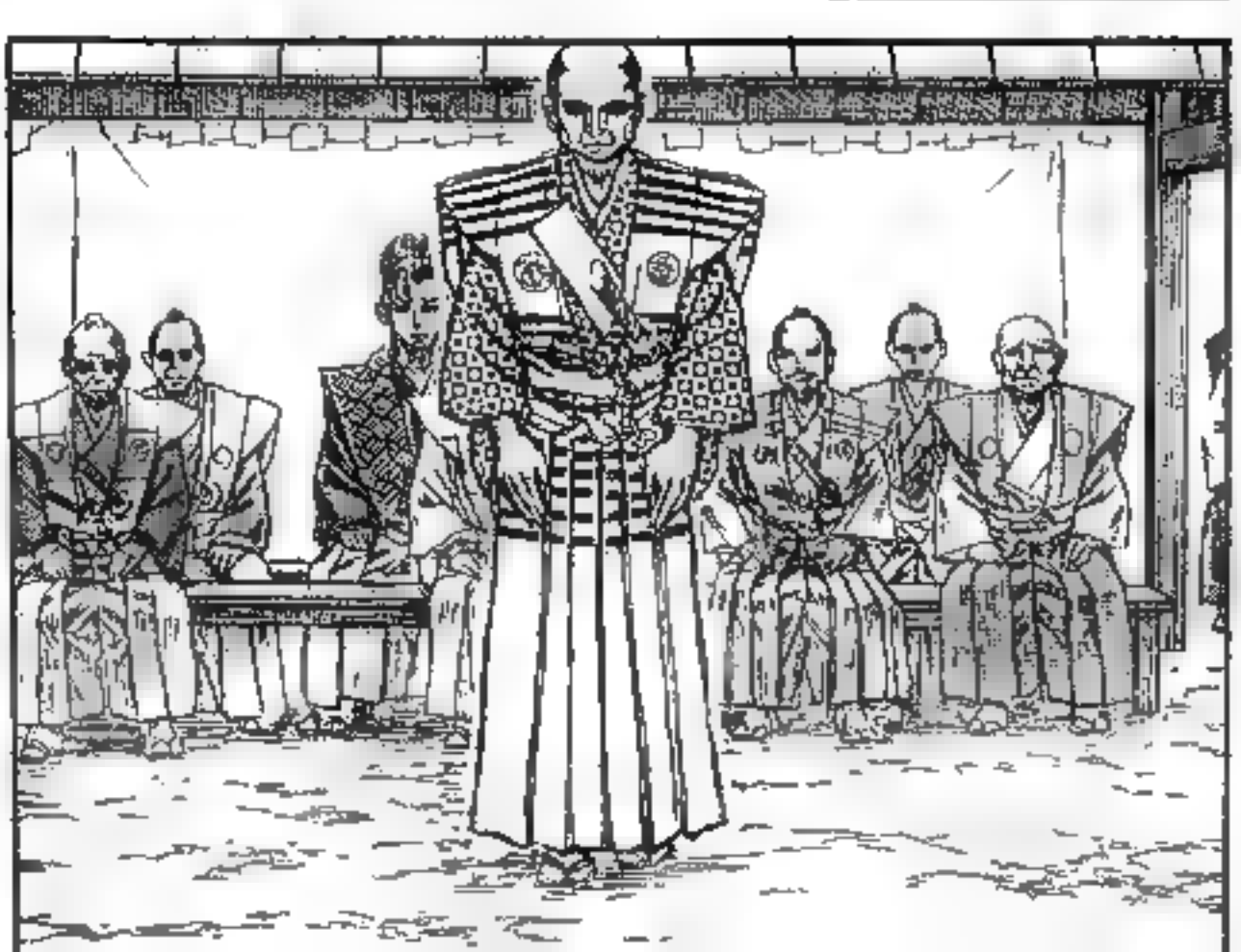
BIZENNOKAMI MAD CALLED HIS SON YUKICHIYO FROM FAR AWAY IN ORDER TO SHOW HIM THE WARRIOR KNOWN AS FUJIKI GENNOSUKE

MMMM.

EVERYONE IS READY







HOWEVER, THE DEPARTED SHOGUN, TOKUGAWA IEYASU-SAMA,

BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO THIS DUEL, SO WE LEAVE IT TO YOU TO END THIS FEUD.

SPECIFIED THAT A DUEL OF THIS KIND CANNOT BE HELD TWICE.

HE WHO CALLED FOR VENGEANCE, FUJIKI GENNOSUKE

HE WHO HEARD THAT CALL IRAKO SEIGEN

IWAMOTO KOGAN, STRUCK DOWN BY IRAKO SEIGEN, WAS LIKE A TRUE FATHER TO FUJIKI GENNOSUKE,

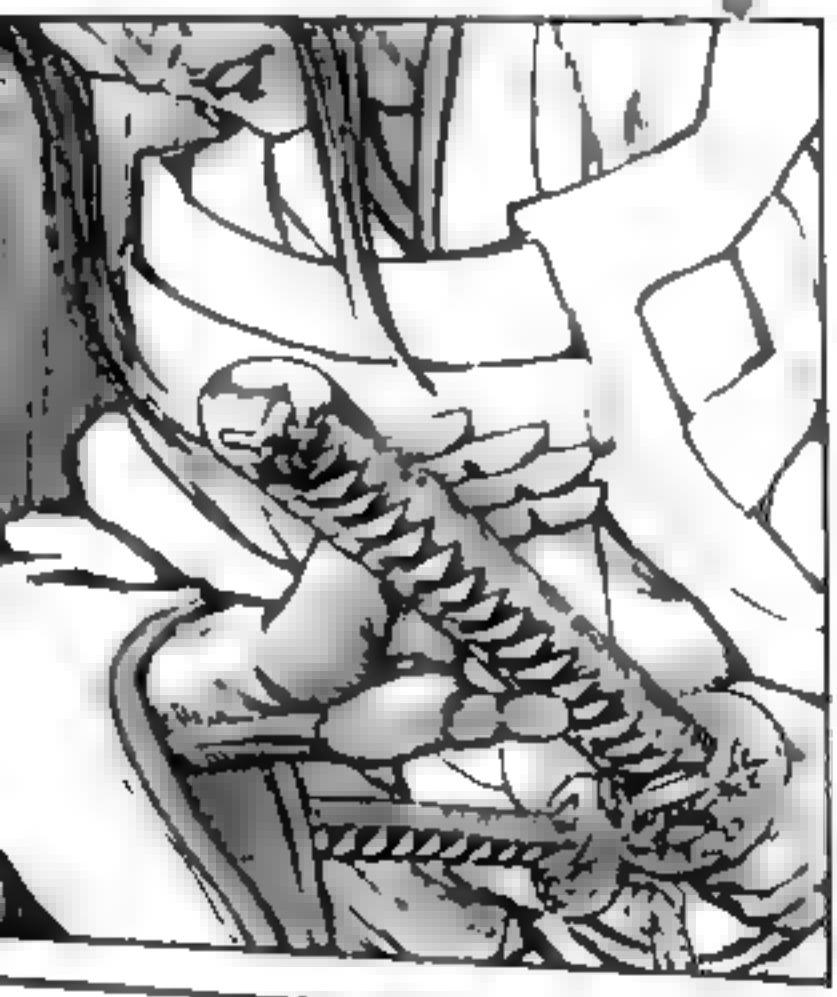
AND AS EVEN THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES TREMBLE WITH RAGE AGAINST THE MURDERER OF A FATHER,

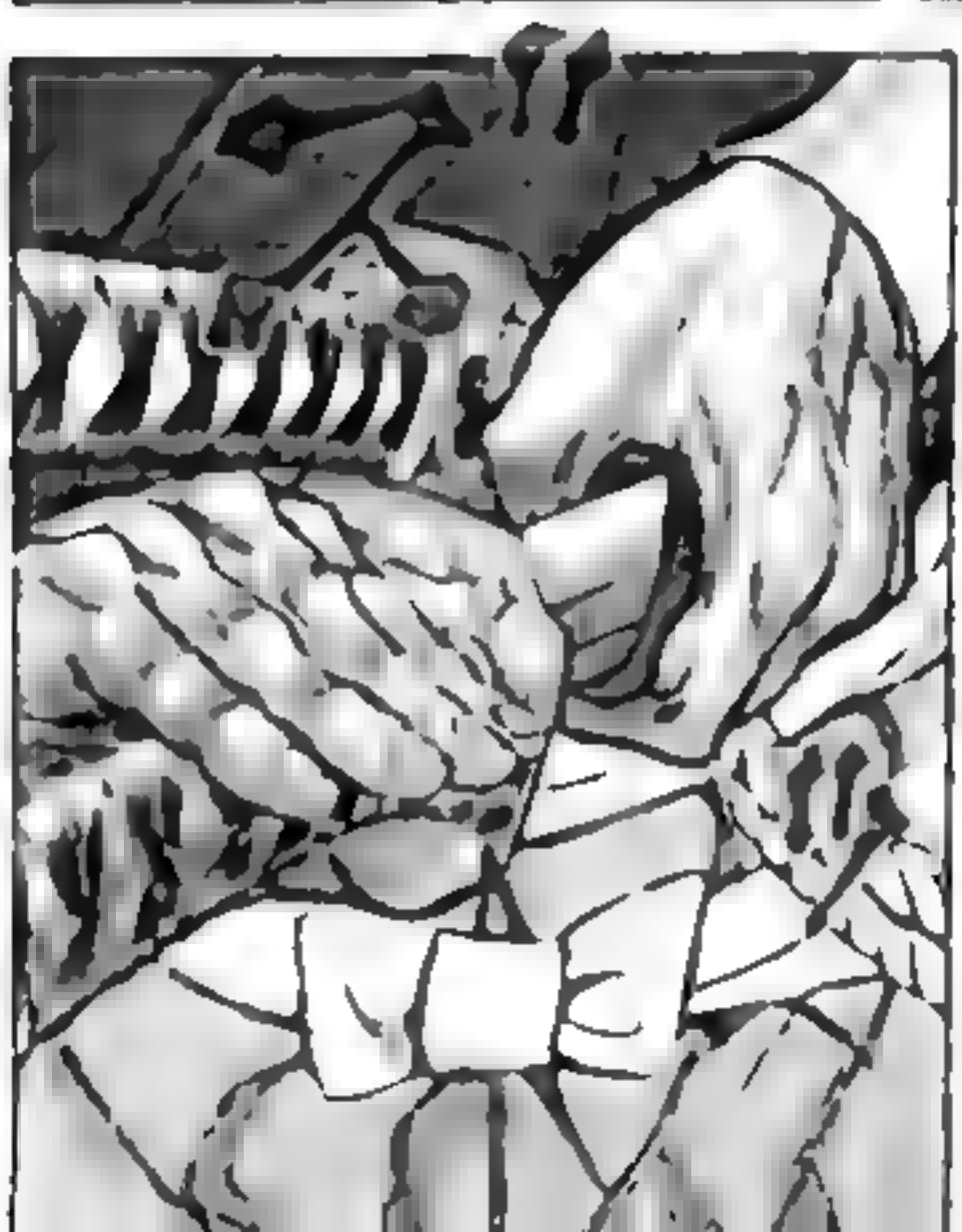
ALSO, NO GRUDGE SHALL BE CARRIED DUE TO THE EVENTS OF THIS DAY, REGARDLESS OF VICTOR. THIS IS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN.

WE OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THIS REQUEST FOR VENGEANCE, AND ALLOW THIS DUEL.

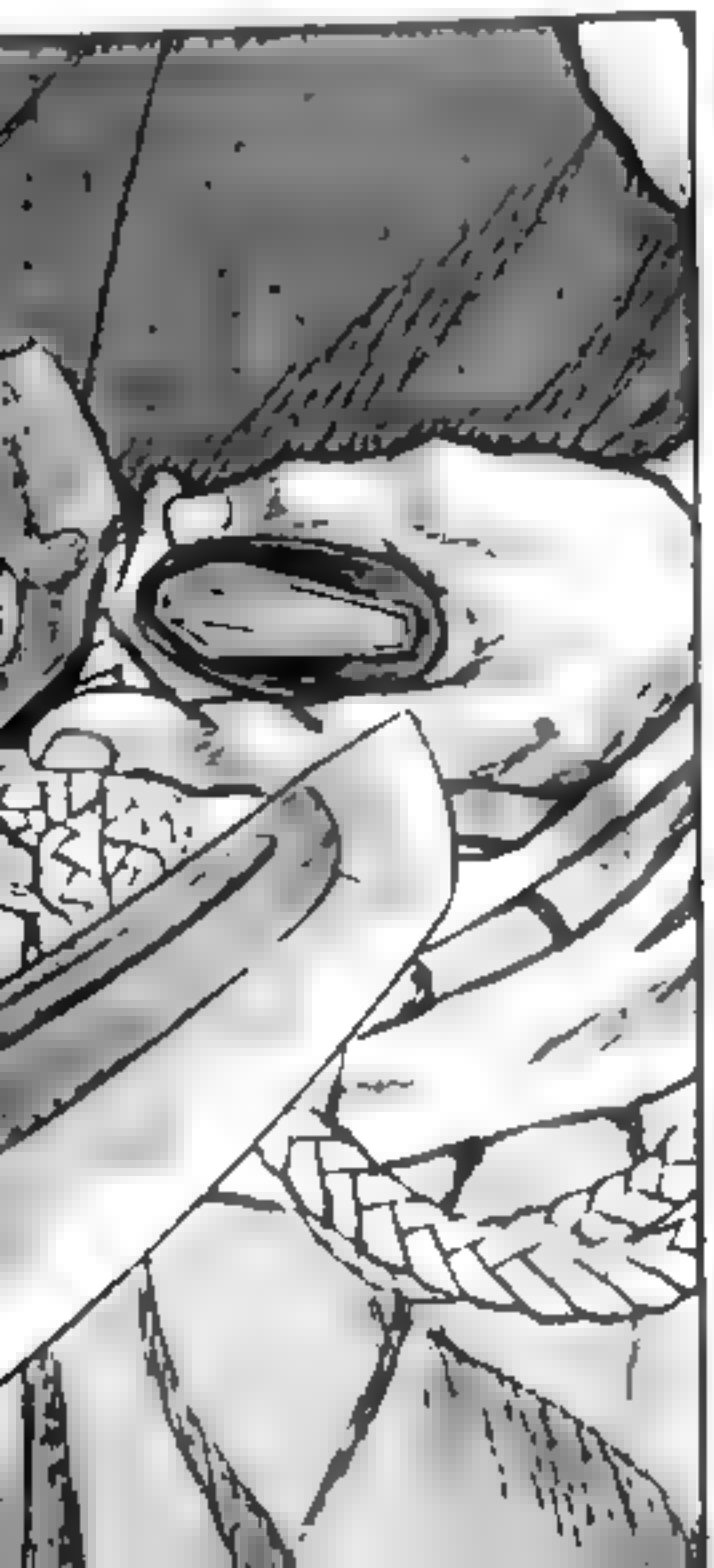
OF COURSE.

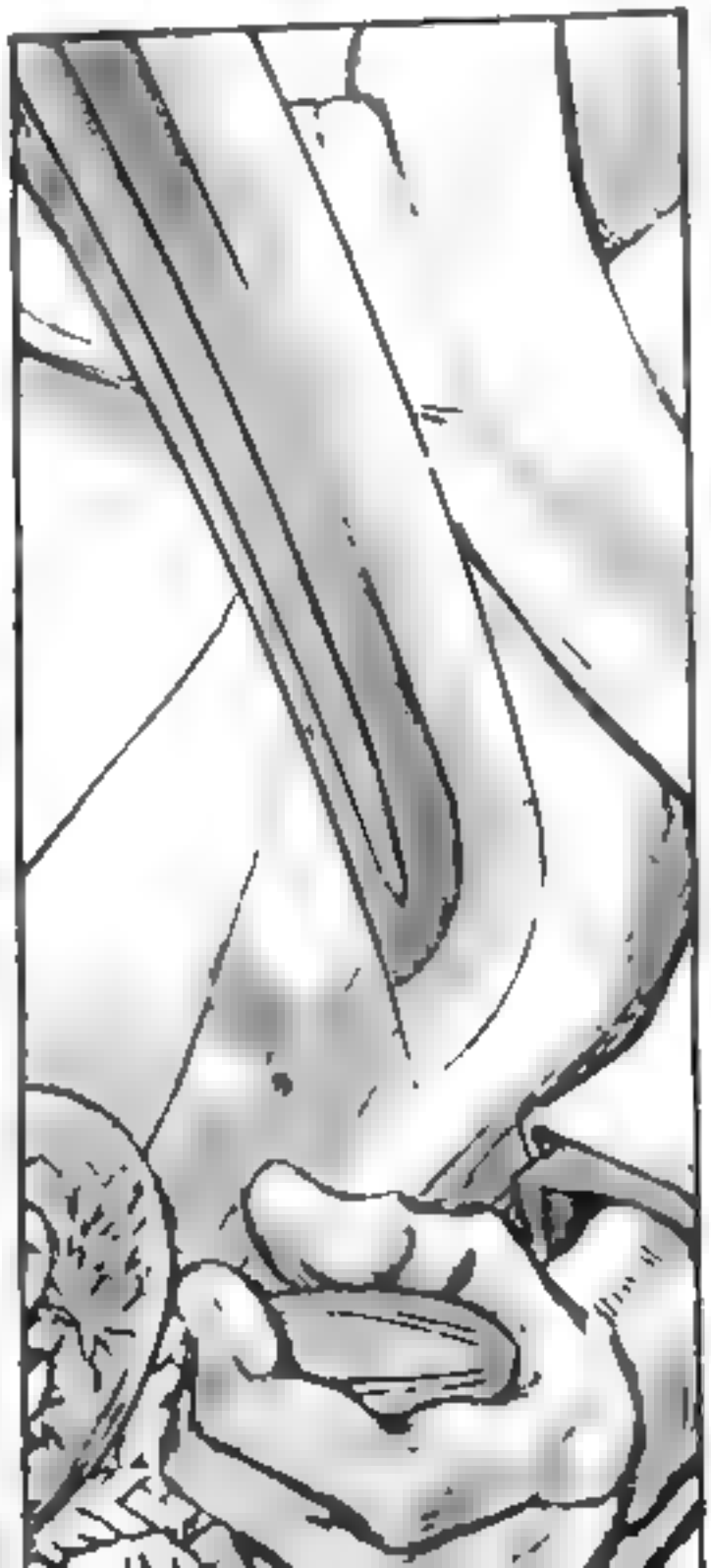
DO NOT WORRY.





Samurai
ATTITUDE





FROM WHAT I CAN SEE.

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE'S OPPONENT IS A BLIND MAN.

FATHER

RIGHT

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, RIGHT...?

YUKICHIYO-DONO

IT IS NOT ONLY THE EYES WHICH CAN SENSE THIS WORLD.

SLOWLY
DESCENDED
TOWARDS
THE GROUND

SETSUNA'S
BLADE

BUT
BEFORE
TOUCHING
THE EARTH

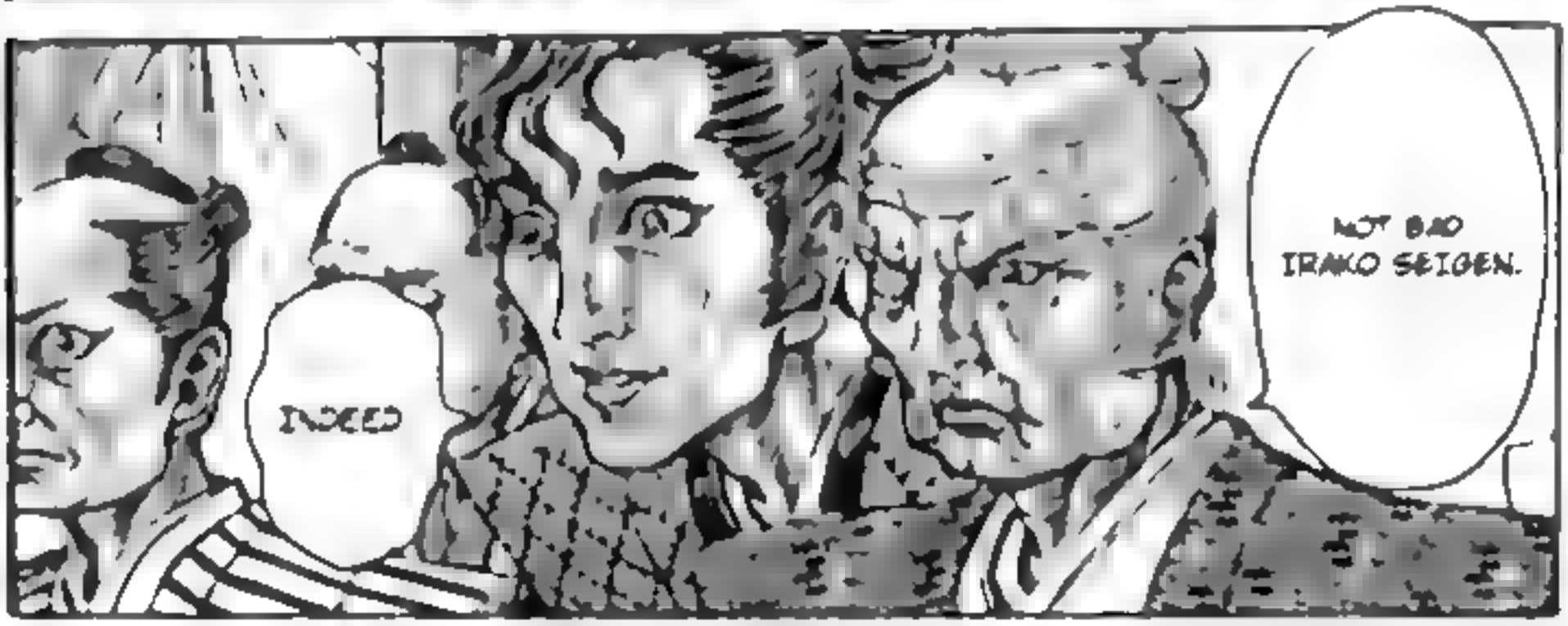
IT
SUDDENLY
SPRANG
UPWARDS
WITH SUR-
PRISING
ALACRITY

ASTRID
FROM ABOVE...

CHAPTER 39
EXECUTION GROUND

SET SPIN S SAI RC I PC NTING ARCS THE HEAVENS

COULD EVEN BE CALLED MAJ ESTIC


INDEED
NOT BAD IRAKO SEIGEN.

LOOK CLOSELY AT FUJIKI GENNOSUKE, YUKICHIYO.

IS THAT THE FACE OF A CONDEMNED MAN?

HIS EXPRESSION IS SO VERY CLEAR

A STRIKE STRAIGHT DOWN THE CENTER!

IT WAS A VISION THAT APPEARED ONLY THOSE TRAINED THE WAYS OF THE SWORD.

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE WAS STRUCK DOWN!

WHILE THE IGNORANT PEASANTS MERELY STARED, THEIR JAWS SLACK.

SEIGEN'S SWORD HAD NOT MOVED.

HE HAD MERELY MADE HIS KILLING INTENT CLEAR.

NOW, COME TO ME.

TODAY I WILL UTTERLY DESTROY THE CLAN OF SHAMOTO.

THE THING YOU VALUE MOST THAN YOUR OWN LIFE!

BENNO-SUKE NODDED SLIGHTLY

AS THOUGH HE HAD HEARD THE SNARL OF PURE HATE

THAT SEIGEN HID DEEP WITHIN HIMSELF,

AND SLOWLY RAISED HIS SWORD BEHIND HIS BACK

ざっざっ

ざっざっ

WHEN THE PLACE OF MORGAN KYUU CAME TO REST AT THE BACK BEWARE!

ひゅ

？

DID NOT ONLY DRAW HIS SWORD BEHIND HIM

BUT ON THIS DAY THE MAN OF KOSAN-RYU...

THIS IS...!

HE
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS

HE PRESENTED HIS VITAL POINT TO HIS ENEMY,

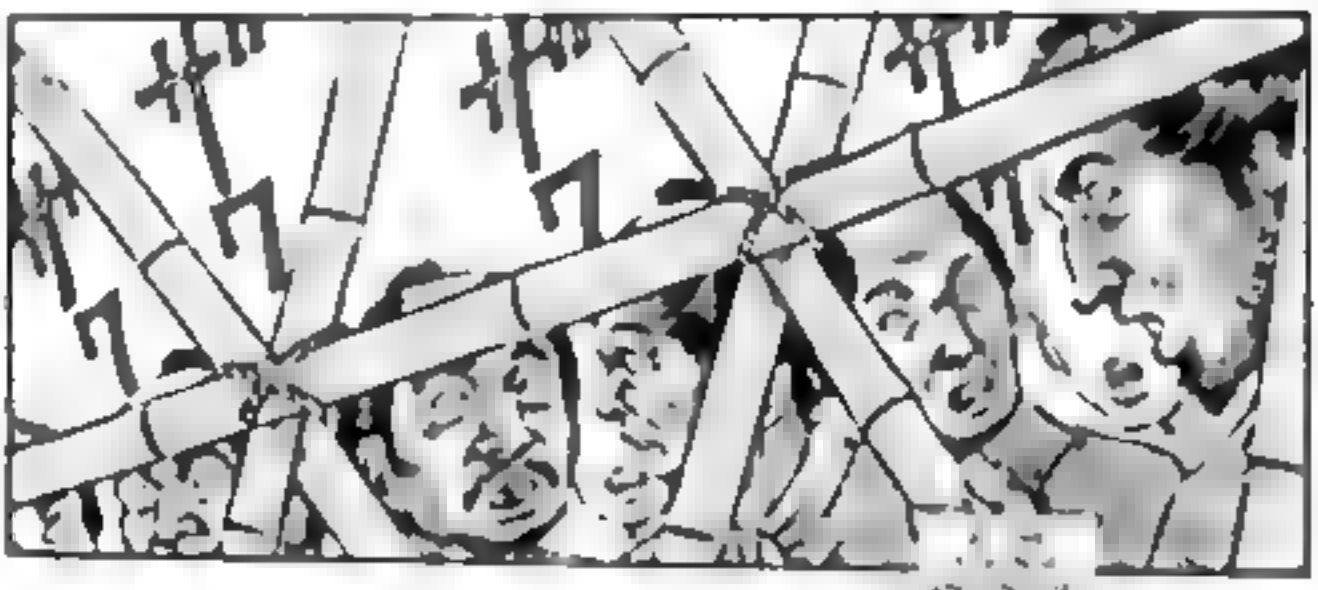
HIS GAZE FACING ELSEWHERE

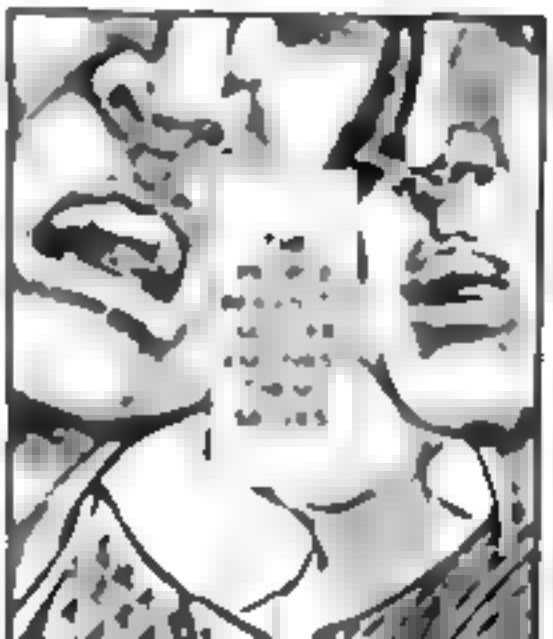
HOW CAN HE...

THIS SIGHT IS NOT THAT OF A DUELING GROUND.

IT IS THAT OF AN EXECUTION!

THIS MAN, ALMOST LIKE A BLOOD BROTHER, GENNOS





IKU KEPT HER EYES ON GENNOSUKE'S STRANGE POSE,

HER S[illegible] SO S[illegible] THAT BLOOD BEGAN LEAKING FROM HER EYES.

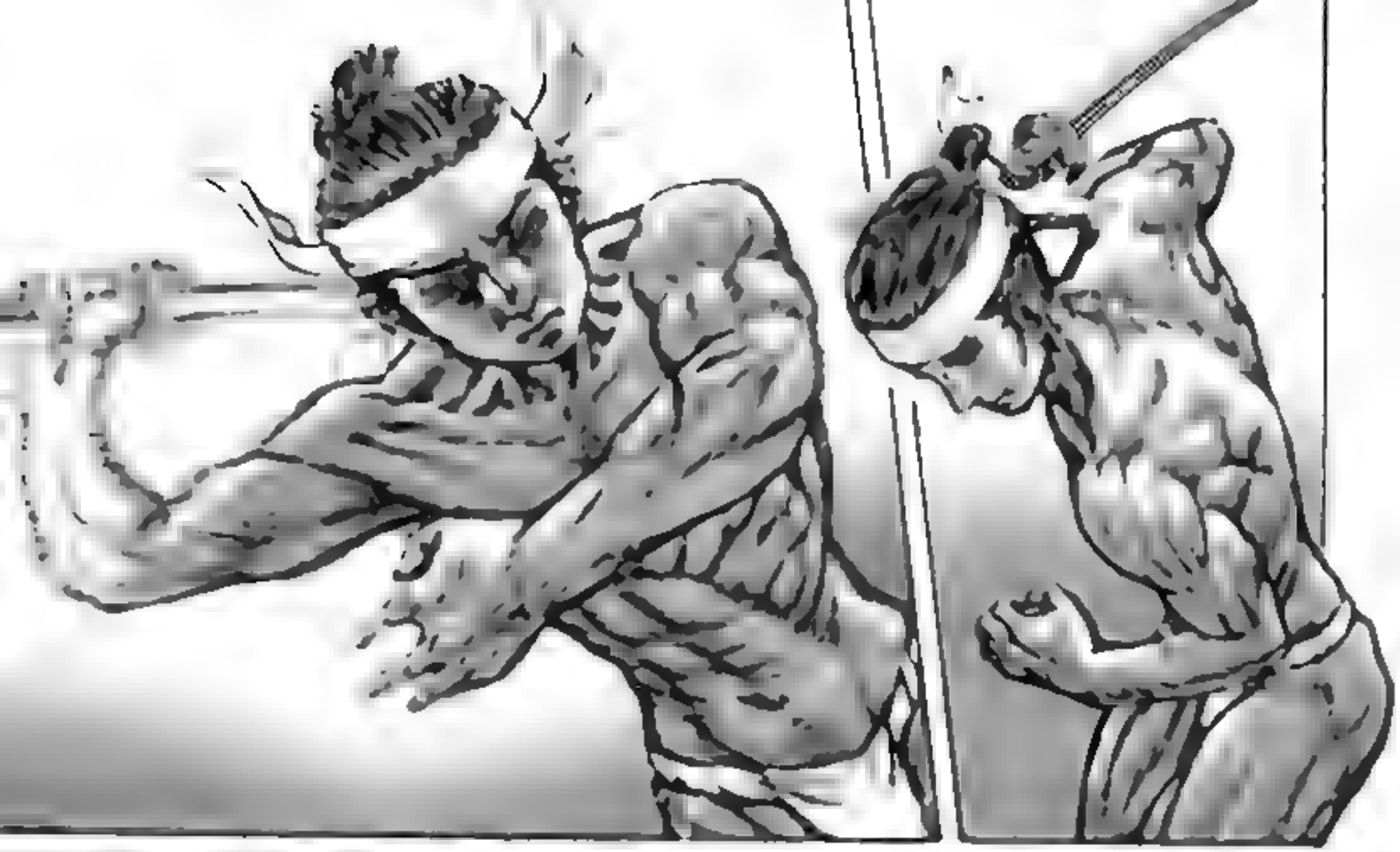
HER EYES WERE SEIGEN'S EYES.

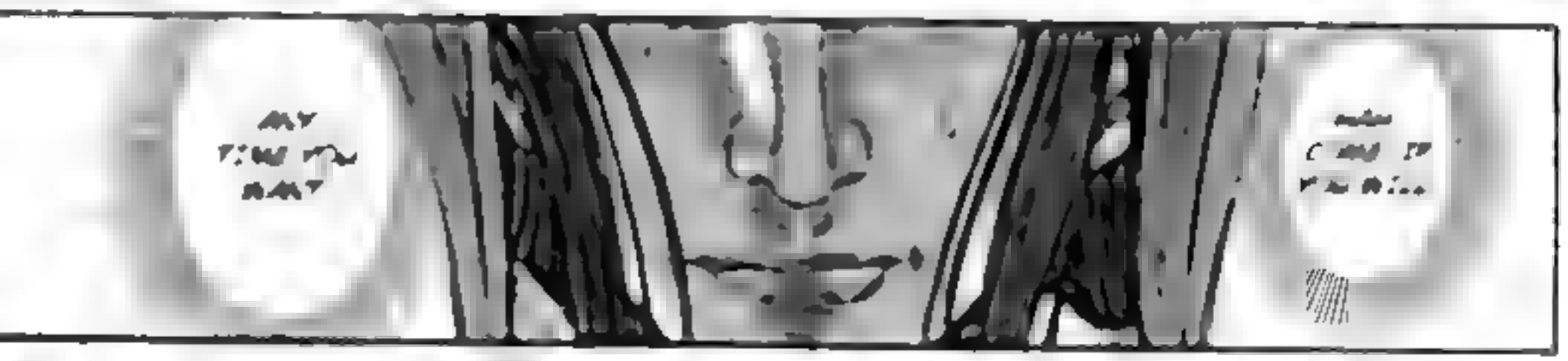
[illegible]

MEANWHILE, SEIGEN WAS STRUCK BY A STRONG SENSE OF MORTAL DANGER,

[illegible]

CEN-TERED ON HIS LEFT SIDE





GENNOSUKE, TOO.

WAS WATCHING SEIGEN BECOME UNEASY.

KOGAN-RYUU, *"HIMO KAGAMI."

THE BLADE BECAME LIKE A MIRROR OF ICE.

*LITERALLY "COLD MIRROR." THE CORD AT A SAMURAI'S WAIST THAT HOLDS HIS SWORDS IN PLACE AND THE SURFACE OF ICE CAN BOTH BE PRONOUNCED HIMO

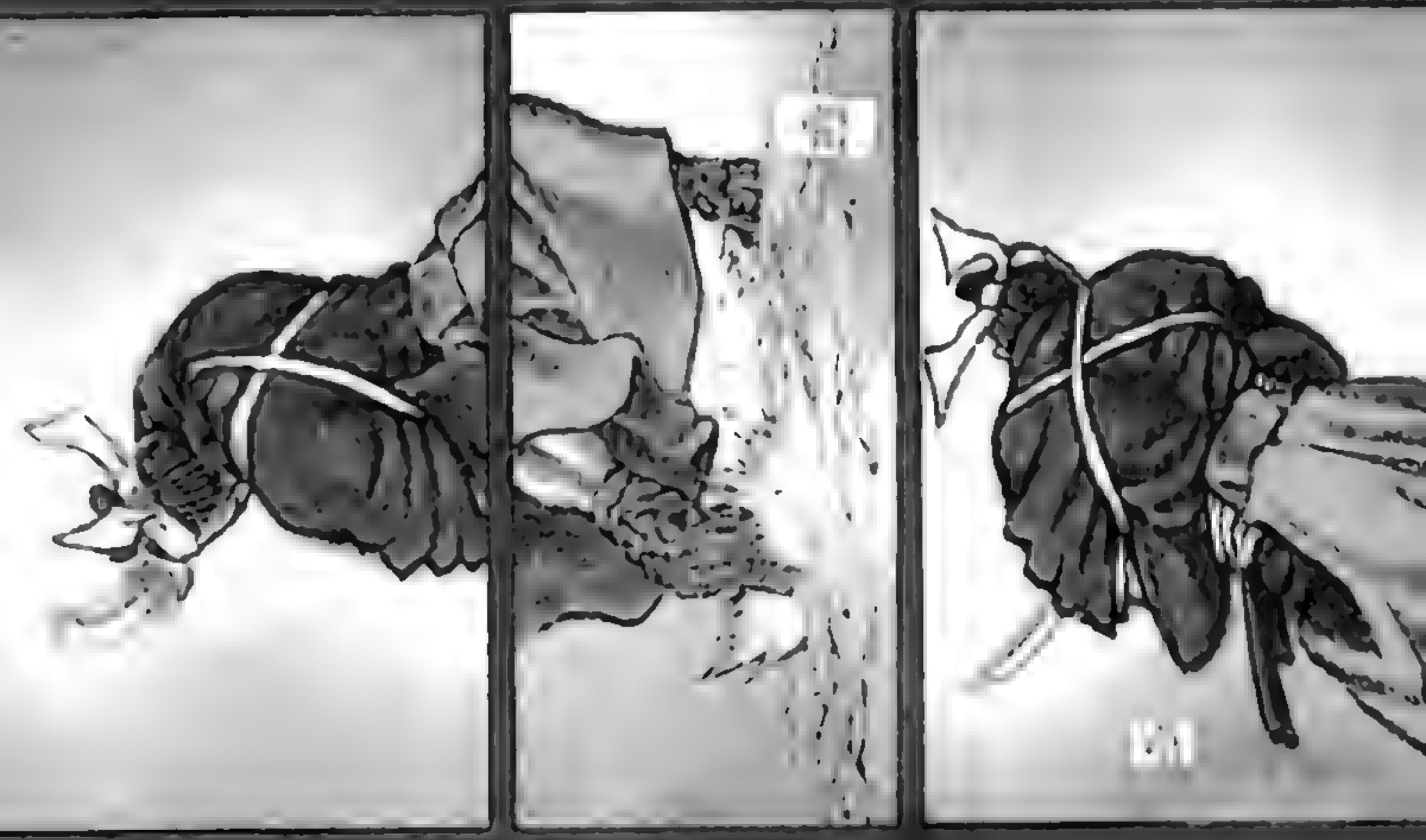
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THIS IS A SOLEMN BUDDHIST SHRINE?!

SHUT YOUR MOUTHS!

BE QUIET!

I SAID, SHUT UP!!

ARRGH...



HIEN.

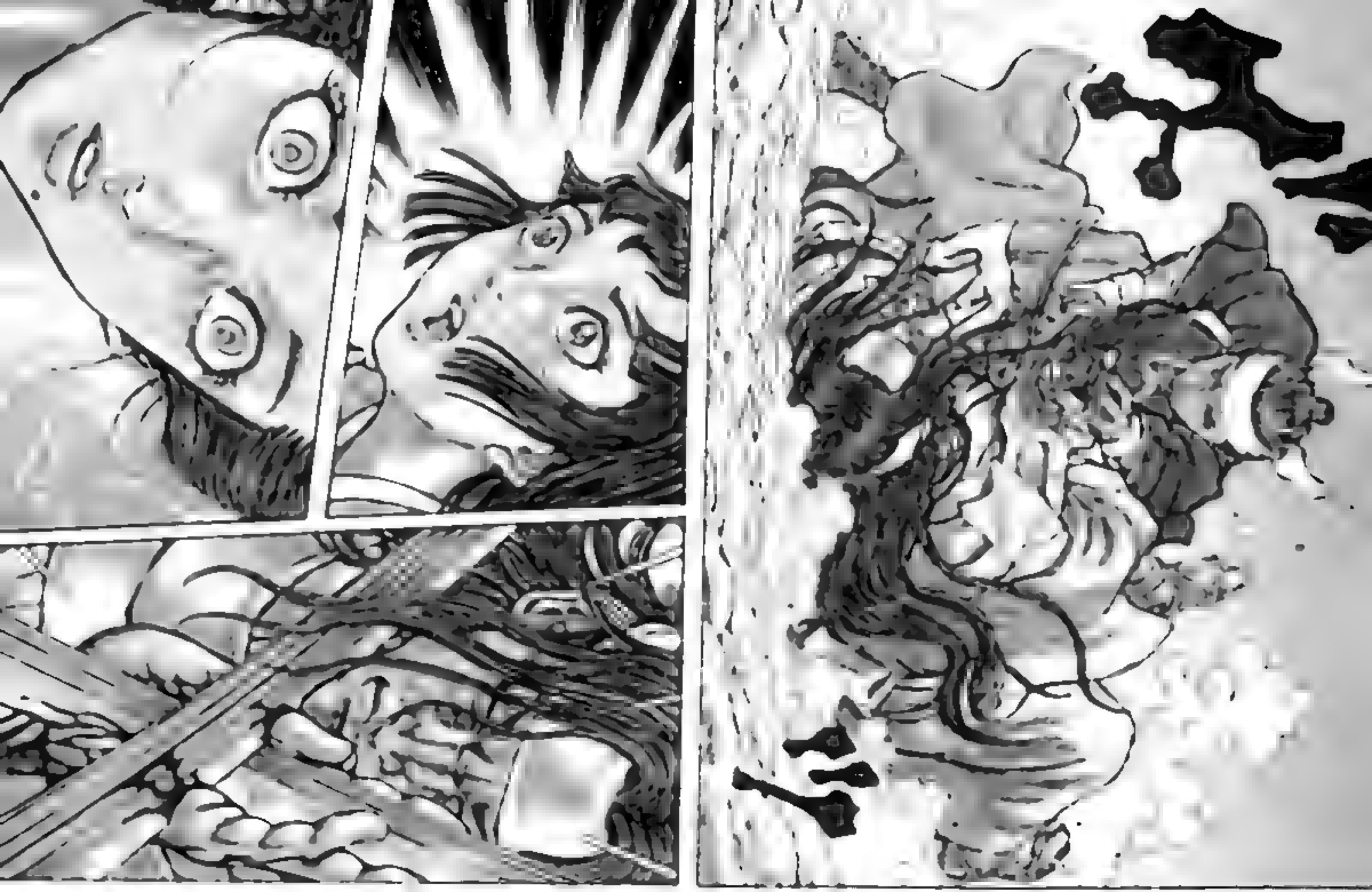
THE PART OF THE SWORD KNOWN AS THE SHINOGI

WAS THE SLIGHTLY PROTRUDING RIDGE RUNNING BETWEEN THE EDGE AND THE BACK OF THE BLADE

•KATATE NENBUTSU SHINOGI GUARD!

IF HE HAD NOT BRACED HIS PALM AGAINST THIS PART OF HIS SWORD,

HIEN WOULD SURELY HAVE SLICED HIM IN TWO.



CHAPTER 40
THUNDERING
OF THE EARTH

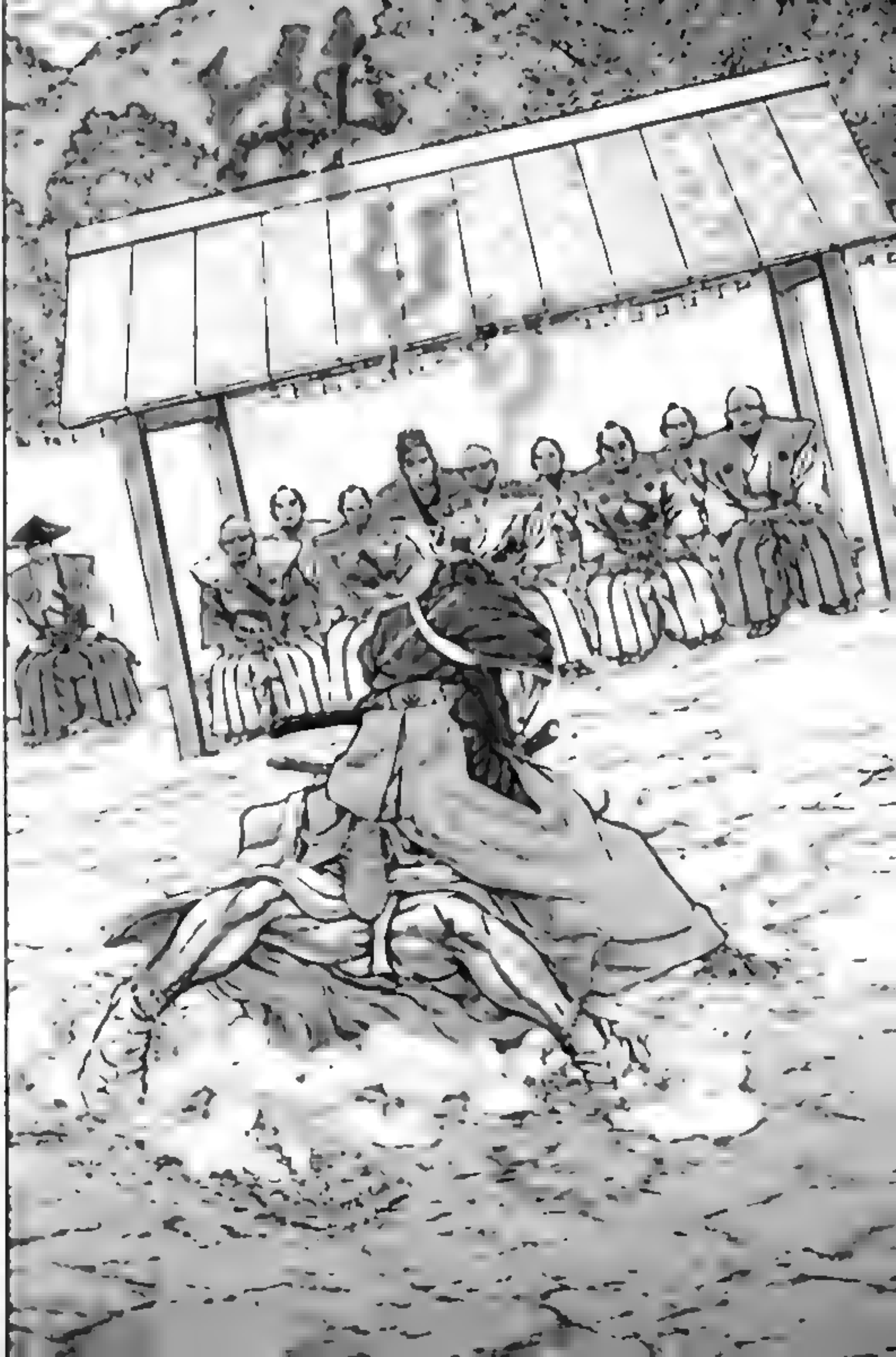
IN THE FACE OF GENNOSUKE'S "TSUBAZEMARI."

SEIGEN FELL TO THE EARTH.

WITH EVERY DESPERATE MOVE - SEIGEN MADE, SENNOSUKE'S BLADE DREW EVER CLOSER.

BOTH HANDS WERE NEEDED TO EVEN BLOCK THIS ATTACK,

MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SEIGEN TO UTILIZE HIS "YUBI GARAMI" TECHNIQUES.



GUH...

THE CRY OF "MATCH DECLARED WITH HALF HAND IN THE AIR

AND THE BATTLE WOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED

IF THIS HAD BEEN A NORMAL DUEL.

IT WAS A DUEL TO THE DEATH

BUT THIS WAS NO NORMAL BATTLE

OUR SHIHAN HAS WON!

HE'S GOING TO WIN!

MIE-SAMA

THE WARRIOR'S DAUGHTER HAD LOST ALL COMPOSURE

LOOKING AS THOUGH SHE HAD TAKEN LEAVE OF HER SENSES

WHAT TIME IS IT?

USHIMATA QUICKLY AVERTED HIS GAZE AND

CHAGRINED ON HER BEHALF.

WHA...

LIKE A GREAT SERPENT, SEIGEN'S LEG COILED AROUND GENNOSUKE'S

BLOCKING HIS NOSE AND MOUTH

THAT LEG IS MORE SUPPLE THAN ORDINARY

IT'S A LEO TECH-NIQUE.

THE WRETCH IS DES-PERATE!

THE TWIN DRAGONS WERE INTERTWINED WITH EACH OTHER, THEIR CLAWS AIMING FOR THE VITAL POINTS.

WOULD SEIGEN'S HEAD PART FROM HIS SHOULDERS, OR WOULD GENNOSUKE'S AIR RUN OUT?

AT THAT MOMENT,

THE BLADE TOUCHED AGAINST HIS JUGULAR.

SEIGEN'S TOES SPREAD WIDE.

LIKE THE FINGERS OF A MAN...

STRIKING AGAINST THE CRITICAL AREA BETWEEN GENNOSUKE'S EYES,

AND FREEING SEIGEN FROM HIS ATTACK!

THERE WAS A BRIEF SCUFFLE AND THEN

THIS TIME SEIBEM WAS THE ONE IN POSITION TO ATTACK

NOW, DIE.

YOU SEA SHELL...

TSUCHIRAI

KOGAN-RYUU

TECHNIQUE USED WHEN THE OPPONENT WAS PRESSING DOWN FROM ABOVE

GENNOSUKE HAD USED THE GRIP OF HIS SWORD IN PLACE OF HIS FIST

VOMIT-ING.

SEIGEN WAS THROWN AWAY LIKE A RAG DOLL

NOW'S THE TIME!

QUICKLY...

GENNOSUKE GAVE UP HIS GOLDEN CHANCE.

NO, HE WAS FORCED TO.

WHAT A SHAME.

OR ARE YOU AFRAID?

COME, SEIGEN.

NOW,

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THIS.

PUJIKI...

THINKING THAT YOU WOULD BE WEAKER THAN KOGAN WAS MY MISTAKE.

ONCE SEIGEN BEGAN ADVANCING

BENNOSUKE MOVED BACK TO THE CENTER OF THE AREA

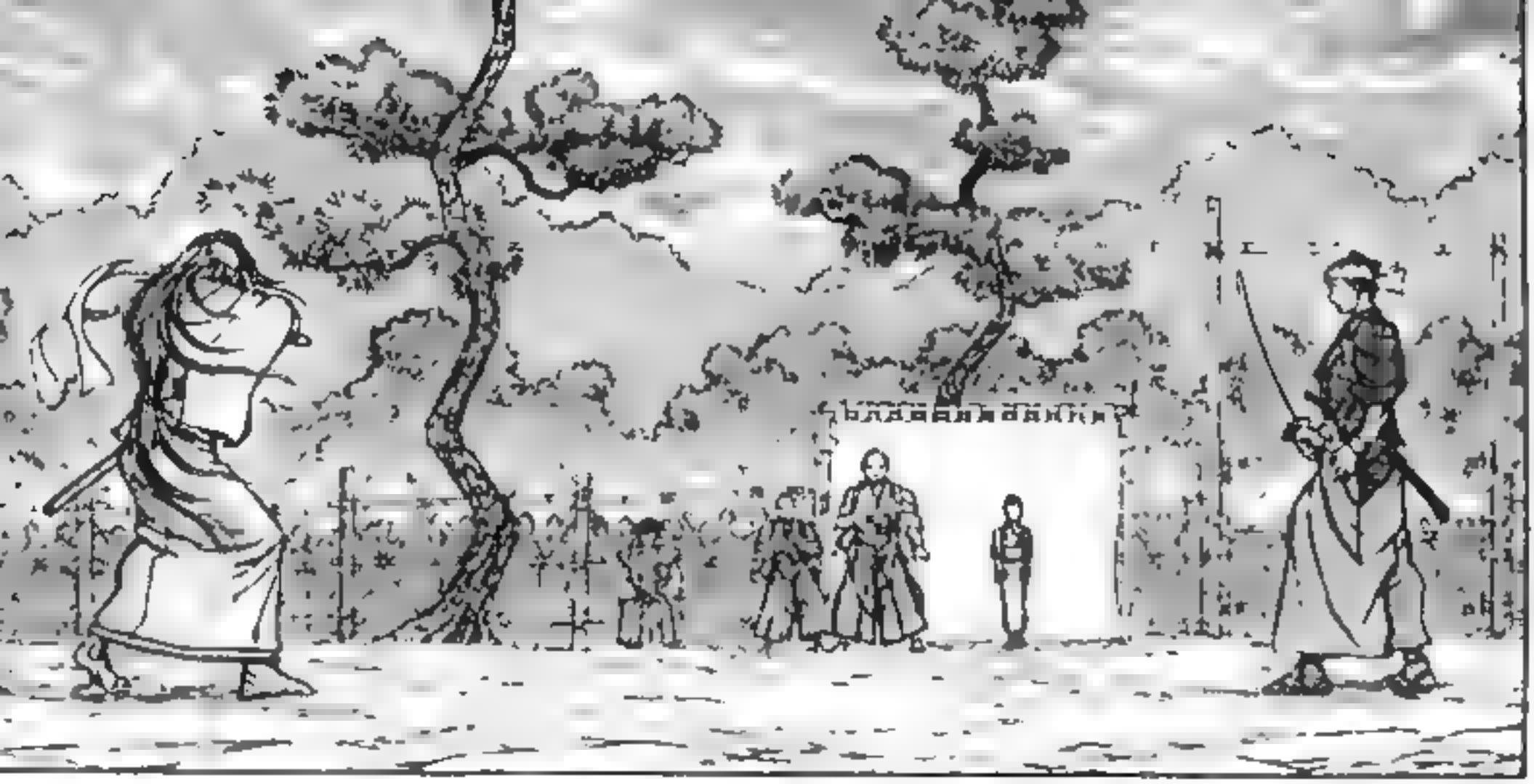
CHAPTER 11

DOPPELGÄNGER

THE DEMON ART THAT HAD BEEN KEPT A CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET

WAS NOW ON DISPLAY FOR ALL TO SEE.

NAGARE BOSHI...



YOU WRETCHED THING
YOU EVEN STOLE KOGAN-SENSEI'S SECRET ART

NOT BE SAID
FOR CERTAIN
THAT NONE

THE JUDGE
TO KILL...

TO THE
VERY LAST
MAN.

WILL BE YOUR DOOM.
PLUTO!
THIS TECHNOLOGY WAS ONCE KOLAN'S MANNER DOME.

TOOK THAT PECULIAR

THE BLACK EYES OF IWAMOTO MIE,

ONCE AGAIN FOCUSED ON HER HUSBAND TO BE.

ALREADY,

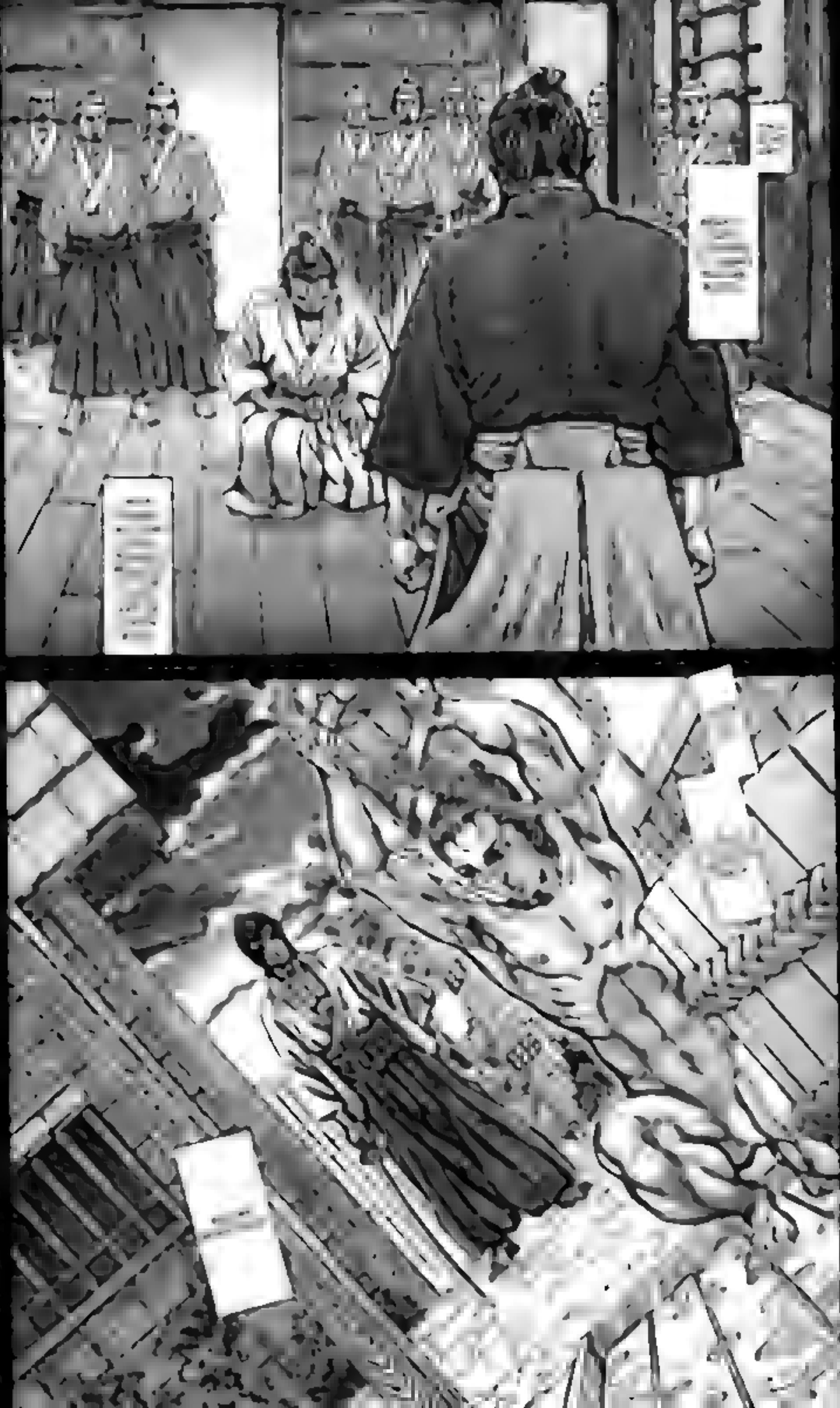
GENNOSUKE STOOD WITHIN NAGARE BOSHI'S KILLING CIRCLE.

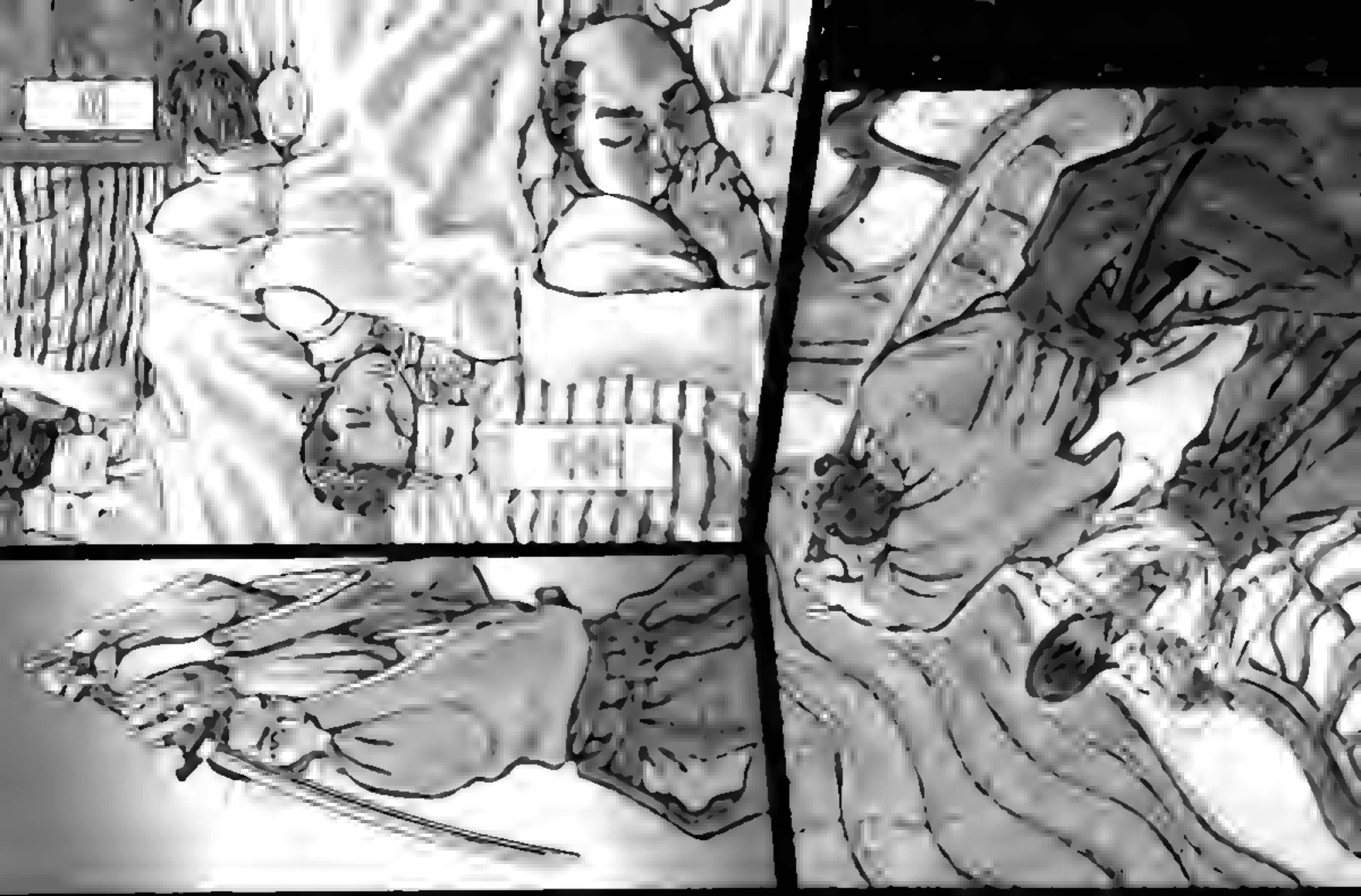
THE RAPID WEAKENING OF HIS OPPONENT'S FIGHTING

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE ALREADY KNEW HOW TO PERFORM NABARE BOSHI.

BUT IT WAS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY TO DEFEND AGAINST ANOTHER USER OF THAT ART.

AND THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD KNOW OF ANY TECHNIQUE THAT MIGHT STOP IT.





WAS THE
AS

EVERY SINGLE
DAY. WITHOUT
FAIL. BENNOSUKE
FACED THIS
DOPPELGANGER

AND EVERY
TIME, WITHOUT
FAIL, HE WAS
BEHEADED.

THERE IS NO SUCH STANCE IN KOGAN-RYUU!

WHA, WHAT IS THAT, GENNOSUKE?

IT MERELY SEEMED AS THOUGH THEIR SWORDS HA COLLIDED

A NARAGO DEFENSE...

AS TO ENSURE AWAY THE OPPONENT'S ATTACK DURING A MATCH WITH WOODEN SWORDS

THOUGH SOMETIMES THE HIKI WAS USED IN SUCH A WAY

THE NAKAGO WAS THE LOWER PART OF THE ACTUAL BLADE OF THE KATANA. THE PORTION INSIDE THE GRIP

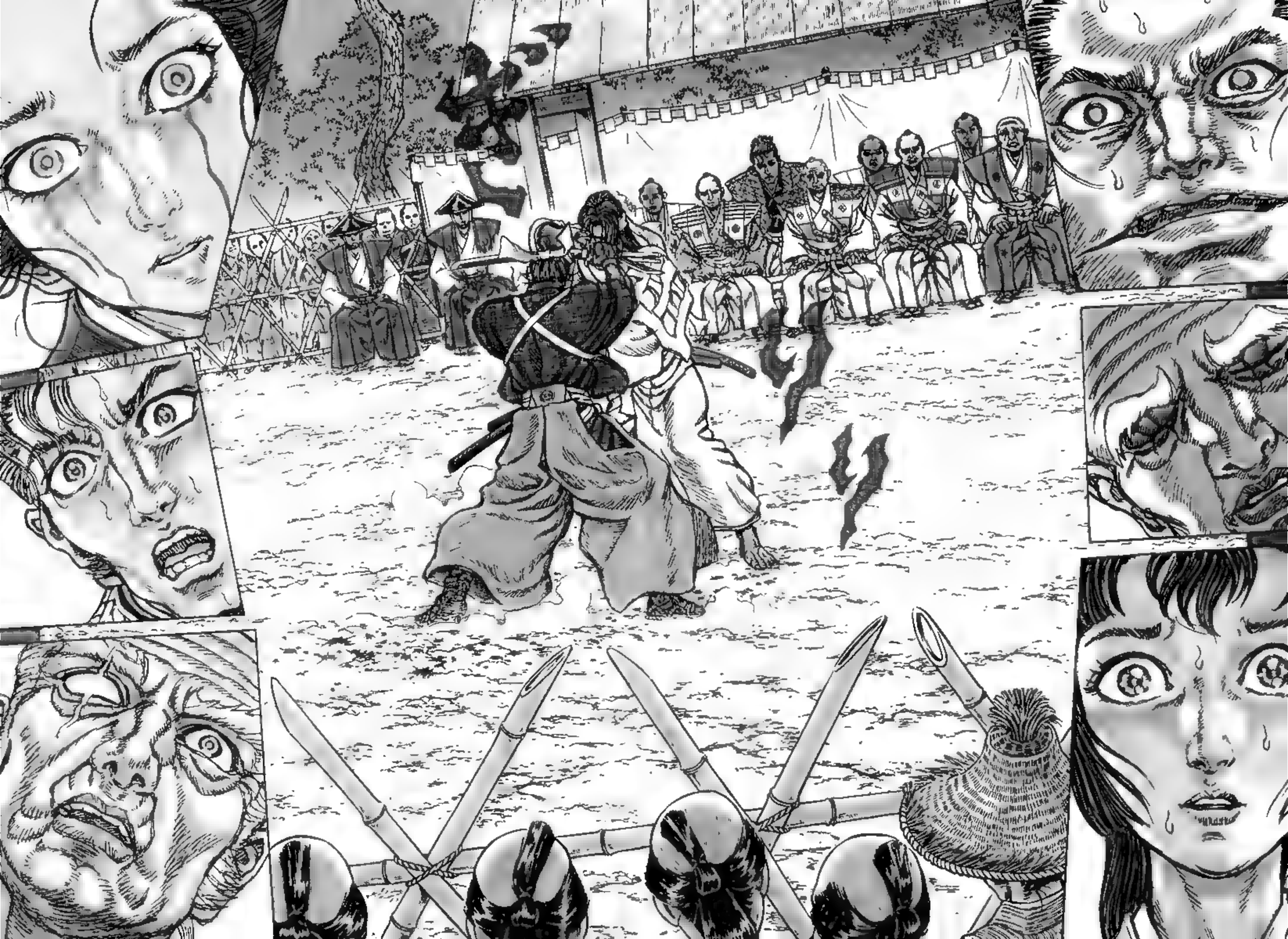
TO USE THE NAKAGO IN ORDER TO STOP A BLINDINGLY FAST LIVE BLADE.

WAS AS FUTILE AND IMPROBABLE AS ATTEMPTING TO SHOOT A BULLET OUT OF THE AIR

THE THIN STEEL HAD INSTANTLY BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A THICK PLATE OF ARMOR,

BLOCKING THE FATAL SHOOTING STAR!

CHAPTER 42
A PAIR OF EYES



THOUGH IT HAD SEEMED AT FIRST THAT GENNOSUKE HAD STRUCK A FATAL BLOW,

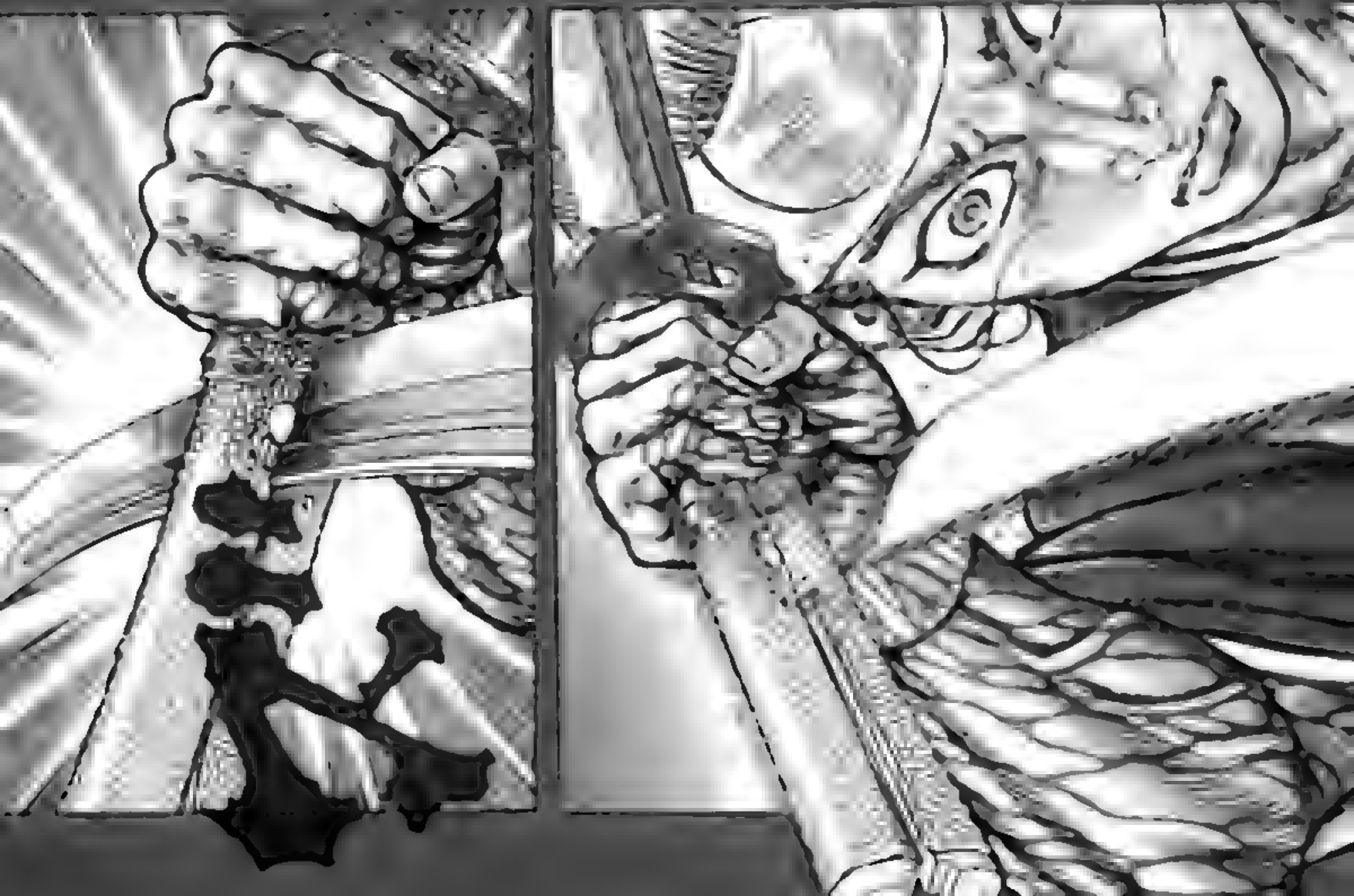
HIS STRIKE HAD BEEN DEFLECTED BY THE CHAIN MESH WOVEN INTO SEIGEN'S CLOTHES, BARELY EVEN CUTTING THE SKIN.

INTO THEIR CLOTHES IN A DUEL

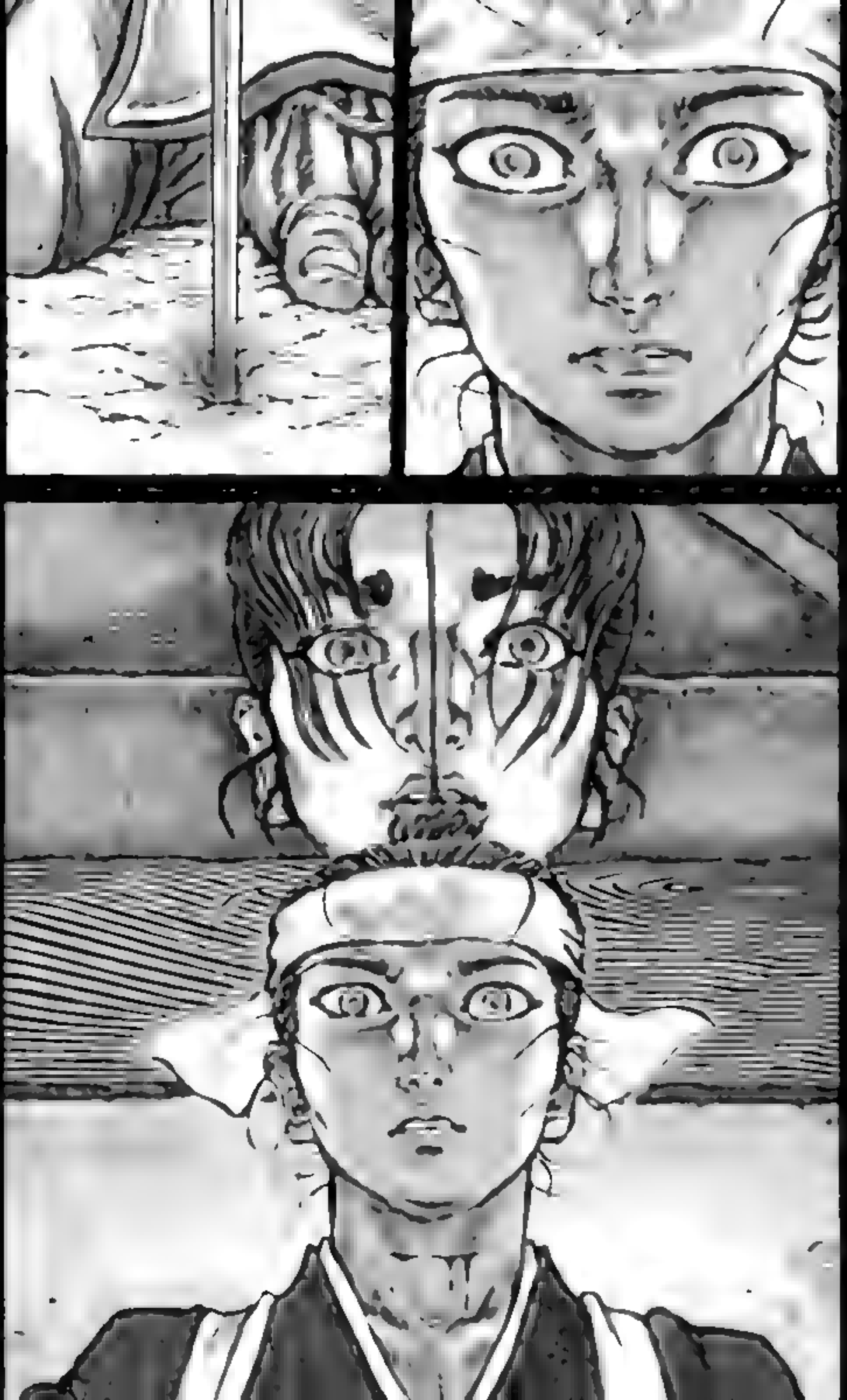
FUJIKI GENNOSUKE HAS ENTERED THIS ARENA WITH ONLY HIS SWORDS

IT IS HIS RESOLVE HIS KNOWLEDGE THAT ONE WHO FEARS THE BLADE OF A BLIND MAN.

HAS NO RIGHT TO BECOME MASTER OF HIS OWN DOUJOU



GENNO-
SUKE...



FIRST
SUPERHERO
FACE FLASHES
PAST HIS
MIND

NOT A
CURTAIN
RAISER
BUT TO
LIFE IN HIS
MOUTH

THE
UNFOR-
GETTABLE
TASTE

OF BLOOD

HE REALIZED SOMETHING MORE STARTLING.

AT THAT MOMENT,

NOT JUST FEELING HIS PRESENCE,

IRAKO SEIGEN WAS LOOKING AT GENNOSUKE!

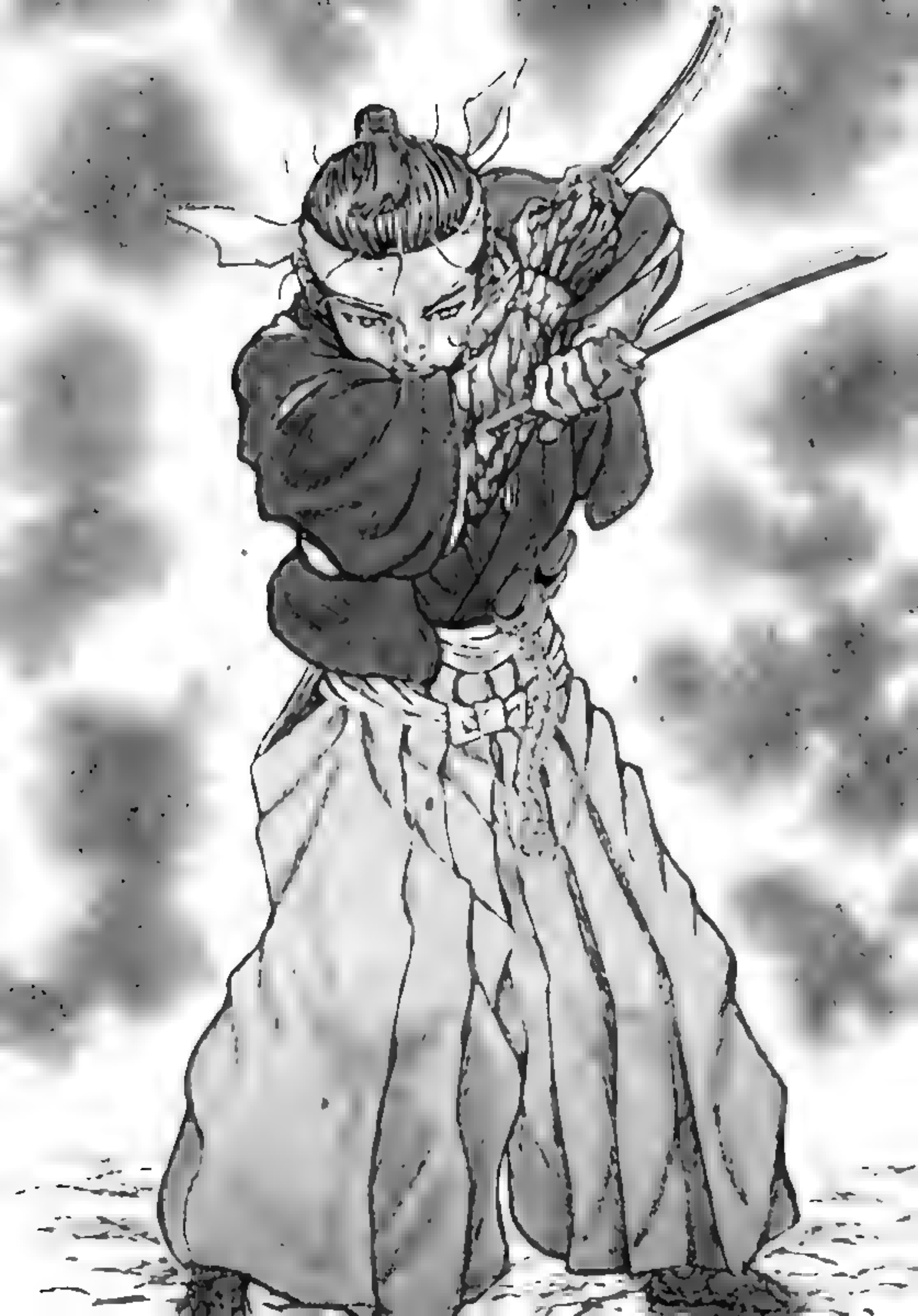
BUT ACTUALLY STARING AT HIM.

AND PRECISELY.

CLEARLY.

A MAN WHOSE EYES HAD BEEN CRUELLY SLICED IN TWO, HAD USED.

NOBODY COULD TELL WHAT METHOD SEIGEN.

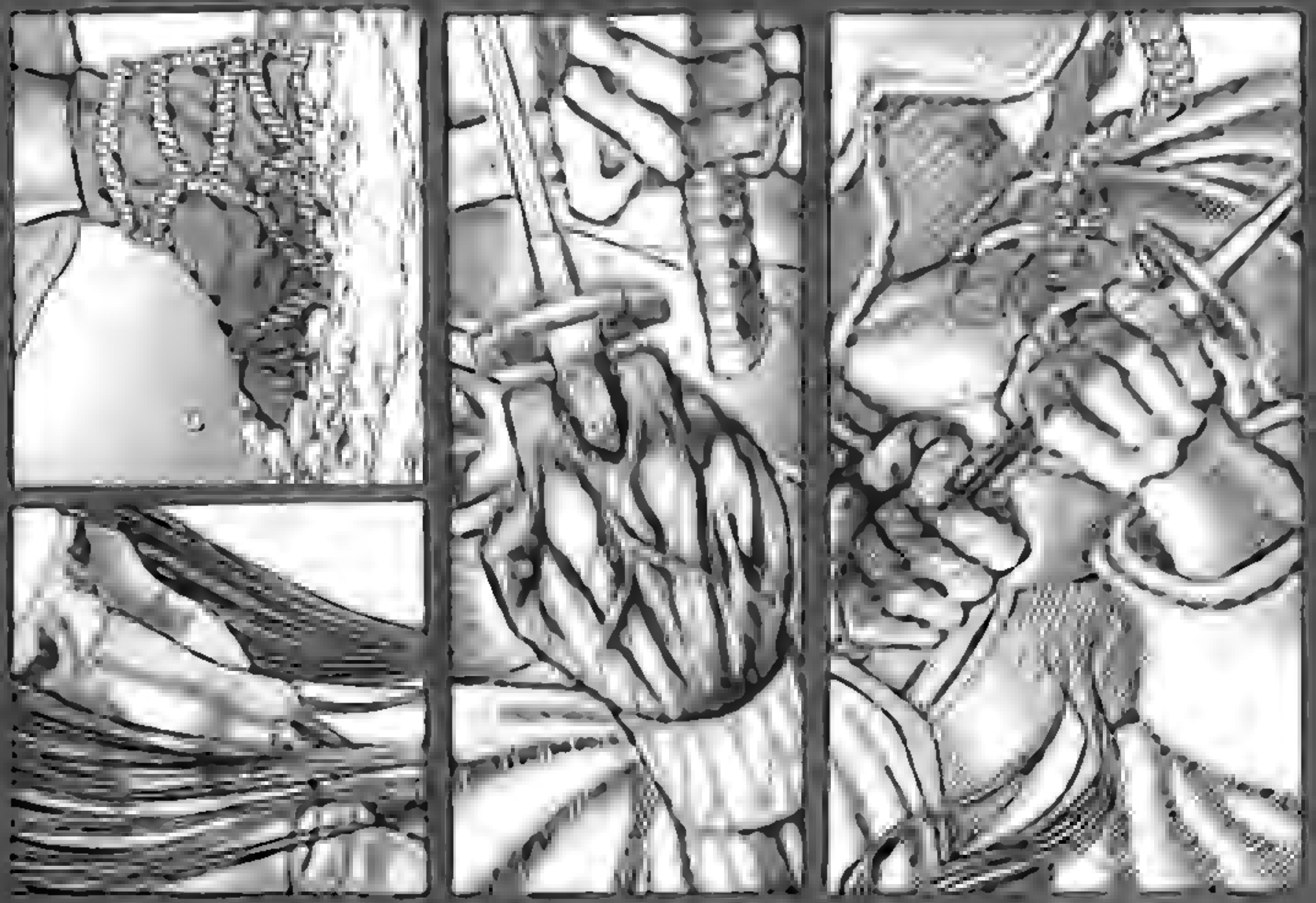


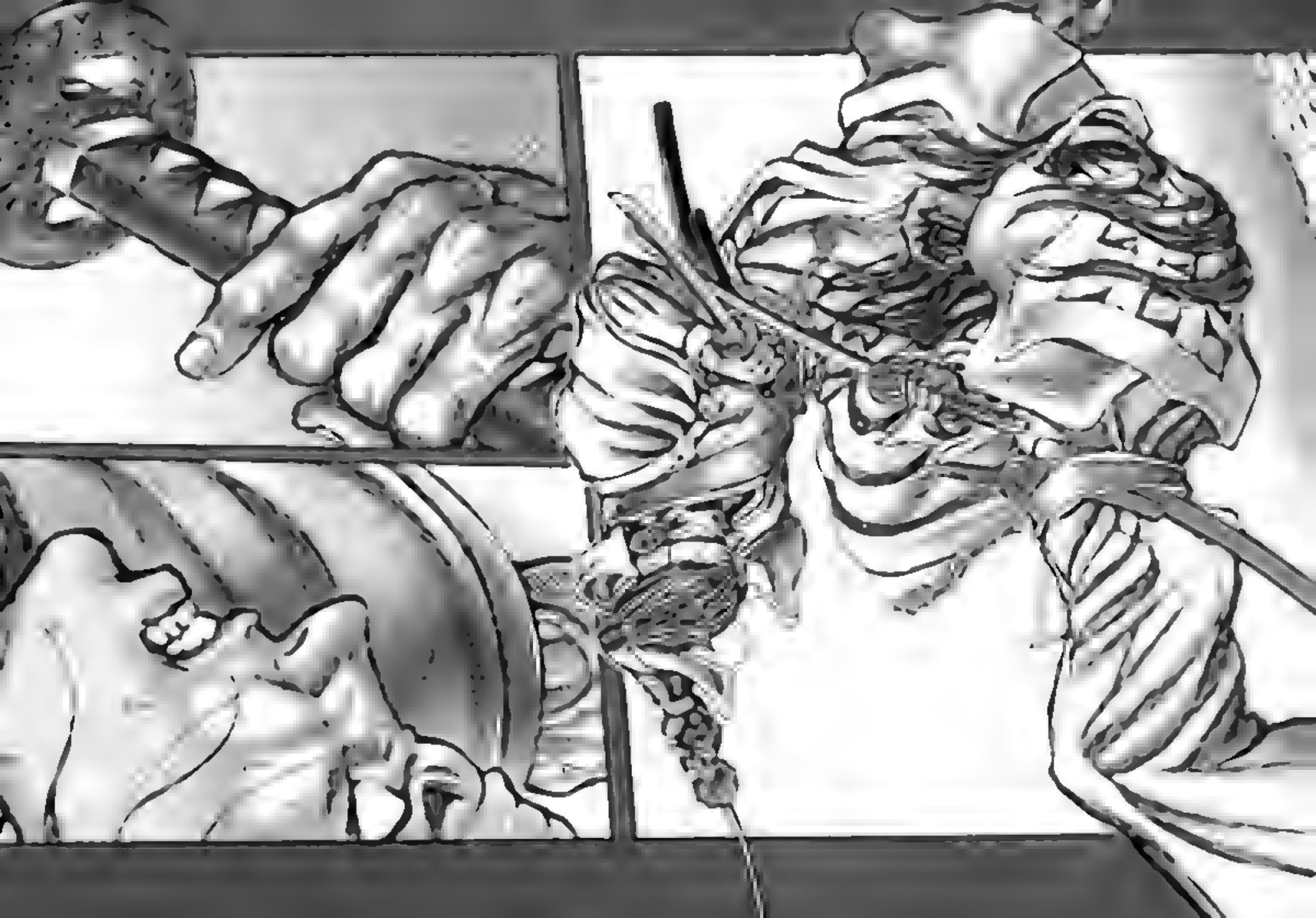
KOGAN-RYUU.
"SUDARE KIBA."

*SCREEN FANG

SUDARE KIBA WAS THE TECHNIQUE HE HAD LEARNED DURING HIS TRAINING WITH USHIMATA,

DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO DEFEND AGAINST ATTACKS FROM BELOW





シグルイ shigurui

作画協力／細倉 徹　那須信弘
考証協力／時野佐一郎

初出／
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